

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 02712 111225Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /013 W
-----111227Z 023151 /13

R 111117Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0898

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2712

FOR EUR/WE ONLY

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION CINCUSAFE INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER,
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL, AMEMBASSY BONN AND CSAF WASHDC
05 APR REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION:

QUOTE:

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PERSONAL FOR GEN ELLIS FROM AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI

INFO: AMB STOESSEL, GEN JONES, GEN HAIG, GEN HUYSER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MAR, PO, GW
SUBJ: PORTUGUESE BASES AND RANGES

REF: (A) CINCUSAFE 041505Z APR 77 (NOTAL), (B) USDAO LISBON
76 291110Z SEP 76 (NOTAL), (C) LISBON 1449 (DTG 231722Z
FEB 77)(NOTAL), (D) LISBON 2275 (DTG 221214Z MAR 77)(NOTAL),
(E) CINCUSAFE 211500Z MAR 77 (NOTAL)

1. AGREE WHOLEHEARTEDLY WITH YOUR DESIRE TO GET USAF ACCESS TO
RANGES AND BASES IN PORTUGAL (REF A). THIS WOULD
APPEAR TO SERVE BOTH US AND PORTUGUESE NEEDS. I HAVE
SUPPORTED THESE INITIATIVES IN THE PAST AND AT ONE TIME
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ARRANGED INFORMALLY FOR A USAF SURVEY OF BEJA (REF B).
FOR WHATEVER REASON, IT DIDN'T MATERIALIZE AT THAT TIME.

2. THIS SITUATION REQUIRES A PRUDENT AND COORDINATED APPROACH;
THE US NEEDS A WELL PREPARED AND CAREFULLY PRESENTED REQUEST
TO THE GOP. I WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE THIS PROMISING INITIATIVE
SPOILED BY A PREMATURE APPROACH TO THE GOP -- AN EVENTUALITY

FORCES HOSTILE TO US BASE ARE ALL TOO READY TO EXPLOIT.
SOME OF THE FACTORS WHICH WE NEED TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION
IN DEALING WITH THE PROJECT ARE THE FOLLOWING:

(A) AZORES BASE NEGOTIATIONS: WE ARE CLOSE TO
RESUMING AZORES BASE NEGOTIATIONS. SEEKING FACILITIES
ON MAINLAND PORTUGAL NEED NOT PREJUDICE THE NEGOTIATIONS
IF CAREFUL PREPARATION IS DONE BEFOREHAND. HOWEVER,
THE SUBJECTS MIGHT LINKED BY THE PORTUGUESE AND WE
SHOULD BE AWARE OF THIS.

(B) COORDINATION WITH FRG: WE ASSUME FROM YOUR
DISCUSSIONS WITH LIMBERG THAT THE GERMANS SHARE OUR
INTEREST IN ACTIVATING BASE AND RANGE FACILITIES HERE.
AT THE SAME TIME, WE BELIEVE THAT ANYTHING WE DO WITH
THE GERMANS MUST RECEIVE THE MOST CAREFUL COORDINATION
AT THE SENIOR POLITICAL LEVEL. AS YOU KNOW, IN ADDITION
TO THE ALLIED EFFORT TO SUPPORT THE PORTUGUESE NATO
BRIGADE, IN WHICH GERMANS ARE A KEY ELEMENT, WE ARE
ENGAGED IN THE FORMATION OF A CONSORTIUM TO LOAN
PORTUGAL A BILLION AND A HALF DOLLARS. GERMAN
PARTICIPATION IS ESSENTIAL BUT QUESTIONABLE AT THIS POINT.
AS EMBASSY BONN POINTED OUT IN ITS RECENT POLICY ASSESSMENT,
THESE AND MANY OTHER MATTERS REGARDING US-FRG COOPERATION
SHOULD NOT BE DEALT WITH PIECEMEAL. FOR EXAMPLE, DOES THE FRG
EXPECT US TO PAY FOR THE USE OF BEJA?

(C) COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN BEJA: BEJA IS THE
CENTER OF COMMUNIST STRENGTH IN PORTUGAL. IT HAS BEEN CALLED
THE PCP YENEN. NOW THAT THE GOP IS TAKING ON THE COMMUNISTS,
THE PCP WILL BE SEEKING EASY WAYS TO EMBARRASS THE
GOVERNMENT. THE APPEARANCE OF AN OUTSIDE SURVEY TEAM WOULD
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QUICKLY BECOME KNOWN IN THE BEJA AREA AND COULD PROVIDE
A READY MADE TARGET FOR PCP AGITATORS.

(D) MILITARY AID: WE HAVE TWO BILLS IN CONGRESS
FOR MILITARY AID TO PORTUGAL TOTALING MORE THAN 50
MILLION DOLLARS. IF PASSED, THEY WILL MARK AN
ENORMOUS INCREASE IN OUR ASSISTANCE EFFORT. THE
INCREASE WILL HAVE IMPORTANT EFFECTS ON OUR POLITICAL-
MILITARY RELATIONSHIP. WE NEED TO CAREFULLY CONSIDER
THIS FACTOR BEFORE UNDERTAKING NEW INITIATIVES WITH
AN INDIVIDUAL BRANCH OF THE ARMED FORCES. I HARDLY
NEED ADD THAT WE HAVE A DIFFICULT PROBLEM ALREADY
WITH THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES HIGH -- BUT UNFILLED --
EXPECTATIONS FOR EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE. THE BEJA PROJECT
WOULD INEVITABLY HEIGHTEN THESE EXPECTATIONS. ALSO
AS YOU KNOW, GEN LEMOS FERREIRA WOULD PREFER TO LIMIT
OUTSIDE VISITS UNTIL SOMETHING CONCRETE MATERIALIZES
FOR HIS AIR FORCE.

3. IN VIEW OF YOUR FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON

AND THE DESIRE TO CHECK OUT MONTE REAL AND BEJA
BEFOREHAND, I PROPOSE THAT, RATHER THAN SENDING A
USAFE TEAM, THE CONSIDERABLE INFORMATION ALREADY
AVAILABLE FROM US AND GERMAN SOURCES BE EXAMINED.
IF THAT DOES NOT SUFFICE, I WOULD BE PREPARED TO SEND
MY AIR ATTACHE AND MAAG AIR FORCE SECTION CHIEF TO
BEJA AND MONTE REAL TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC
INFORMATION YOU MAY NEED.

4. IN ORDER TO GET THE PROJECT MOVING WITH A MINIMUM
OF DELAY, I RECOMMEND IT BE RAISED THROUGH UNIFIED
COMMAND CHANNELS TO STATE, DEFENSE, AND JCS. YOU CAN
BE ASSURED OF MY SOLID SUPPORT.

5. WARM REGARDS.

CARLUCCI

UNQUOTE.

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